

# Montana Crime Reporting Newsletter

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The Montana Board of Crime Control's Technical Services Unit is pleased to bring back the Montana Crime Reporting Newsletter. This Newsletter serves as a source of information between the MBCC and all law enforcement agencies reporting crime data to us. We hope to provide useful information and answers to your data reporting issues. Your comments on this newsletter are encouraged!

## Back Ups

Do you know how your Records Management System is backed up? Please double-check. You don't want to lose any crime data if a computer problem occurs!

## Coming this summer:

A Montana Police Records & NIBRS Training Conference. More details will be sent soon...

Each month look for an e-mail with a MTIBR

## Tip of the Month...

## Crime Data Submission

We would like to thank all those agencies who have been reporting 2007 crime data to MBCC. In 2007, one agency gained the ability and started reporting MTIBR crime data. A big thanks and congrats goes out to the Montana State University-Bozeman Campus Police Department.

Custer Sheriff's Office, Miles City Police Department, Richland Sheriff's Office, and Sidney Police Department are also in the process of implementing a records management system to report MTIBR crime data. Keep up the good work!!

## MTIBR Standards

The Montana Incident Based Reporting Standards Handbook is available at:

<http://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/CrimeDataSubmissions/CrDataSub.asp>.

It is based on the FBI standards & provides the **guidelines** of reporting accurate crime data.

### What is a Reasonableness Check?

A review of your crime data for logical information to improve data integrity.

For example:

- A Victim sustains Minor Injuries with No Weapon in a Simple Assault Incident. Could Personal Weapons of Hands & Feet been the Weapon Type?
- A Theft From a Motor Vehicle Offense occurs in an Incident with Stolen Property Description of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories. Generally other articles from within a motor vehicle, whether locked or unlocked, are Stolen.
- A Structure is the Stolen Property Description in an Incident with a Theft Offense. It is uncommon to have an entire Structure as the Stolen Property.

### Law Enforcement Personnel Survey

Thank You goes out to all agencies for completing our annual personnel survey. This information will be published by the FBI & MBCC for your use as an agency policy & planning tool.

*Your data is important to the MBCC and the state of Montana. It is used to guide policy development at a state and local level. Additionally, the Federal Department of Justice places an emphasis on crime reporting as a criteria for distributing federal funds.*

### Stop Me If You Have Heard This One

**A man walked into a convenience store, put a \$20 bill on the counter and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? Fifteen dollars. [If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, was a crime committed?!!]**

### NEW Reporting Issues:

The following NEW reporting guidelines will assist in more accurate statistics.

- When entering a “trace” amount of a drug Seized, use **.001** for the Drug Quantity.
- If an Offender has ALL Unknown Values i.e.. Age, Sex & Race only RU, Relationship Unknown can be used for the Victim to Offender Relationship. If at least one Value in Known of the Offender, we recommend ST, Stranger for the Victim to Offender Relationship.
- Enter a monetary Value for Drug Equipment when Seized in an Incident. There isn't a master value list, so use your best judgment.

### Victim's Age, Sex & Race

Generally Victim information is known. Please make every effort to collect & enter this data. If an exact Age can't be determined, an Age Range may be used to approximate the Victim's Age.